

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:  
storage means for storing a candidate list in which  
contents are registered;  
calculation means for calculating the degrees of  
similarity of the contents registered in the candidate list  
according to search conditions input from the other  
apparatus;

deleting means for deleting a content from the  
candidate list when it is determined that the degree of  
similarity of the content calculated by the calculation  
means is smaller than a predetermined threshold;

and presentation means for presenting a question to the  
other apparatus when the total number of contents remaining  
in the candidate list as a result of the deletion by the  
deleting means is equal to or larger than a predetermined  
number,

wherein when the question is presented, the calculation  
means further calculates the degrees of similarity of the  
contents registered in the candidate list according to  
search conditions additionally input from the other  
apparatus.

2. An information processing apparatus according to

claim 1, further comprising transmitter means for transmitting the candidate list to the other apparatus when the total number of contents remaining in the candidate list as a result of the deletion by the deleting means is smaller than the predetermined number, and

delivery means for delivering the content to the other apparatus when a request to supply the content registered in the candidate list transmitted from the transmitter means is received from the other apparatus.

3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring user information from the other apparatus, and

authentication means for authenticating the user information acquired by the acquisition means,

wherein the delivery means delivers the content based on the authentication result provided by the authentication means.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising recording means for recording, in the candidate list, the degree of similarity calculated by the calculation means, and a position having a similarity in the content.

5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the content contains one of video data and music data.

6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a format of the search condition contains a text, a text relating to music, a video program, a voice, a singing voice, humming, or music.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the search condition includes, in whole or in part, a title of music, a name of a player, a name of a composer, a name of a lyric writer, a name of a conductor, a genre of the music, lyric, the music, performance by humming or singing voice, information relating to the music, speech, a name of an actor, a video program, reproduction of the video program, and information relating to the video program.

8. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

storing a candidate list in which contents are registered;

calculating the degrees of similarity of the contents registered in the candidate list according to search

conditions input from the other apparatus;

deleting a content from the candidate list when it is determined that the degree of similarity of the content calculated in the calculation step is smaller than a predetermined threshold;

and presenting a question to the other apparatus when the total number of contents remaining in the candidate list as a result of the deletion in the deleting step is equal to or larger than a predetermined number,

wherein when the question is presented, the calculation step further calculates the degrees of similarity of the contents registered in the candidate list according to search conditions additionally input from the other apparatus.

9. A storage medium for storing a computer readable program, the program comprising:

a program code for a step of storing a candidate list in which contents are registered;

a program code for a step of calculating the degrees of similarity of the contents registered in the candidate list according to search conditions input from the other apparatus;

a program code for a step of deleting a content from the candidate list when it is determined that the degree of

similarity of the content calculated in the calculation step is smaller than a predetermined threshold;

and a program code for a step of presenting a question to the other apparatus when the total number of contents remaining in the candidate list as a result of the deletion in the deleting step is equal to or larger than a predetermined number,

wherein when the question is presented, the calculation step further calculates the degrees of similarity of the contents registered in the candidate list according to search conditions additionally input from the other apparatus.

10. An information processing system comprising a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus,

wherein the first information processing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing a candidate list in which contents are registered,

calculation means for calculating the degrees of similarity of the contents registered in the candidate list according to search conditions input from the second information processing apparatus;

deleting means for deleting a content from the

candidate list when it is determined that the degree of similarity of the content calculated by the calculation means is smaller than a predetermined threshold; and

presentation means for presenting a question to the second information processing apparatus when the total number of contents remaining in the candidate list as a result of the deletion by the deleting means is equal to or larger than a predetermined number; and

the second information processing apparatus comprises:

first transmitter means for transmitting, to the first information processing apparatus, the search conditions for searching the contents;

receiver means for receiving the question presented by the first information processing apparatus; and

second transmitter means for transmitting, to the first information processing apparatus, an additional search condition when answering the question received from the receiver means.